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LBJ 133  
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Friday, August 18, 1967  
6:00 p.m.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Your Letter to President Park

Attached is a re-run on your letter to President Park. The original text went out by cable. Ambassador Porter (bless him) came right back with suggested wording that is stronger.

Porter's main point was that he didn't want the Koreans to get the idea that we were ready to meet their requirements (additional civilian presence) while our requirements (more combat troops) were left for consideration only three or four months from now. Porter wants to push harder -- and faster -- than the original language implied.

This is a good change.

I pulled back the signed original which was about to go into the pouch. If you approve and sign this revised letter, we can pouch it but get the text immediately to Porter for delivery.

State and Defense have approved the revised language.

William J. Jorden

Att.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NU 94-298

By 10-26-95, NARA, Date 10-26-95

Approve letter \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

See me \_\_\_\_\_

~~SECRET~~

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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 94-298

By Ly, NARA, Date: 10-26-95 August 17, 1967

Dear Mr. President:

I express my appreciation for the courtesies extended to my emissaries, Mr. Clifford and General Taylor. They have been most complimentary in their comments on the reception given them by you and your colleagues. I am highly gratified at the frank and forthright discussions that took place, and am confident that they have contributed to an even closer relationship and understanding between our two countries.

I know that you and your colleagues have been giving careful and responsible thought to the question of increasing your forces in South Viet-Nam. In their visits, Messrs. Clifford and Taylor found agreement in the belief that this is a critical time and that it is essential to maintain the momentum of our military efforts, even as we search always for some sign in Hanoi of a willingness to move toward peace. I believe strongly that it would have a great effect in Hanoi if it became clear that all of us, within our capabilities, were prepared to increase our efforts at this time, and you have of course noted the increase of 65,000 in South Vietnamese forces and our own announcement of an increase of 45,000 men.

Of even greater importance, is the effect that an increase of forces on the part of our allies will have on our ability to maintain and expand the contribution that this country is making. As Messrs. Clifford and Taylor informed you in advance, I have now requested an increase in taxes in the form of a ten per cent surtax which is made necessary by our expanding costs in Viet-Nam.

Let me say to you, quite frankly, that the action of the Congress and the attitude of our people on this question will be influenced to a great extent by the decision that you and our other allies make in increasing your forces.

My emissaries have reported on the discussions which they had with you as to the need to increase your forces. My hope is

that you will make the maximum effort in this regard, and that we can work out the details of an agreement as speedily as possible. Ambassador Porter, who has the full details on these matters, would be happy to consult with you about the type of contribution you and I discussed during my visit to Seoul last Fall. These particular proposals reflect the benefit of experience and analysis conducted since that time in a situation that has changed in many respects. If your Government were able to move in these areas, it would be of substantial immediate help, but Ambassador Porter will also be discussing with you additional combat forces.

As to the question of a possible summit meeting, Messrs. Clifford and Taylor found affirmative reactions in all capitals toward the possibility of such a meeting after the South Vietnamese elections and the installation of a new government there. There also seems to be a common view that such a meeting should be at Asian initiative and in an appropriate Asian setting. My own mind runs in the direction of late November, and I should be most interested to have your thoughts, however tentative, on timing factors from your standpoint.

In closing, let me repeat my deep thanks for all that was done for Messrs. Clifford and Taylor. We must stay in very close touch on all aspects of the situation, and you now of course have with you Ambassador Porter, who brings a deep first-hand knowledge of our relationship.

With my high respects and warm regards,

Sincerely,

*LS/LBJ*

His Excellency  
Chung Hee Park  
President of the Republic of Korea  
Seoul

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